

I have found no records from Martha's Vineyard for either species, and they are not known on Block Island.

For *Ilex opaca* this area forms the extreme northeastern limit of the species, which follows the coastal plain south to Florida, and extends inland to Missouri. It prefers moist soil in woods, but is also frequent southward on dry mountain slopes.

Ilex glabra finds its extreme northeastern limit in southwestern Nova Scotia growing in the southern counties as far east as Halifax,¹ but there is a gap of 275 miles between there and Cape Ann, with no intervening stations. It follows the coast southward in swamps, moist sand, and low woods, to Florida and Louisiana.

It is very interesting that these two allied species, with somewhat different soil-preferences, should be so evenly distributed over the same area in southeastern New England. Along with them here and there are over a hundred other coastal-plain plants, many of which find their northeastern limits here. The waterwashed glacial debris found in these New England sand-plains and kames is sufficiently like the recent coastal-plain further south, to furnish similar soil conditions, while further north on the New England coast these conditions disappear, and the plants with them.

For information in regard to these ranges I am indebted to Dr. E. W. Sinnott, Messrs. A. C. Bent, S. N. F. Sanford and Professors J. F. Collins and M. L. Fernald.

HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

THE WEST VIRGINIAN VARIETY OF *POLYGONUM CILINODE*.— *Polygonum cilinode* Michx., one of the commonest plants of the Canadian Zone, ranges from Newfoundland to Athabasca and south into the Great Lake states, the mountains of Pennsylvania, and the cooler districts of New England. South of the Pennsylvania mountains it is very rare, but it has been reported as far south as North Carolina. The only material seen by the writer, however, from south of Pennsylvania is Greenman's No. 346 from Spruce Knob, West Virginia, where the plant is localized, as indicated by the citation in Millspaugh's *Living Flora of West Virginia* (1913) of no other station in the state. But besides its isolation on Spruce Knob, the West Virginian

¹ Macoun, Cat. Can. Pl. pt. 3, 503; Proc. & Trans. N. S. Inst. Sci. viii. 107.

plant has other points of interest. Throughout its continuous range in British America and the northern states *P. cilinode* has the stems always puberulent and the lower surfaces of the leaves densely pilose; but the Spruce Knob plant has its stems and leaves quite glabrous, or the leaves rarely with a very sparse pubescence on the veins beneath. The fruiting calyx is slightly shorter than is common in the northern typical form, 3.5–4 mm. long; in the northern plant ordinarily 4–5 mm. long. And the achenes of the Spruce Knob plant are broadly trigonous-obovoid or -subglobose and scarcely 3 mm. long; in the northern pubescent plant usually more ellipsoid and from 3–4 mm. long.

These characters, if constant, would indicate that the Spruce Knob plant is specifically distinct; but an examination of 86 sheets of true *Polygonum cilinode* shows that the pubescent plant sometimes has the calyx and the achene quite as short and plump as in the West Virginian material. It seems wisest, then, to designate the southern plant as

POLYGONUM CILINODE Michx., var. **laevigatum**, n. var., caule glabro; foliis glabris vel subtus sparse pilosis: achaeniis late trigonis obovoideis vel -subglobosis vix 3 mm. longis — WEST VIRGINIA: Spruce Knob, 14 September, 1904, *J. M. Greenman*, no. 346 (TYPE in Gray Herb.).— M. L. FERNALD, Gray Herbarium.

AN UNWELCOME INVADER.— Another species of the weedy annual brome grasses has entered the Manual region. This is *Bromus villosus* Forsk. (*B. maximus* Desf.) which has appeared along the railway at College Park, Maryland. Specimens were brought to the National Herbarium by Mr. S. D. Gray in early June, and more sent later by Professor J. B. S. Norton. This is one of the group of Mediterranean species that today cover the overgrazed slopes and valleys of southern California, often in favorable situations growing as thickly as a field of grain. *Bromus villosus* and its variety *Gussonei* Aschers. & Graebn. like their allies, *B. madritensis* L. and *B. rubens* L., are injurious to grazing animals, the long scabrous awns of the ripened florets, scattered by the wind over the pastures, penetrating the tender parts of the nose and mouth, often causing sores. If this species spreads as rapidly in the eastern states as has its comparatively inoffensive little relative *B. tectorum* it will probably soon be one of our worst annual weeds.— AGNES CHASE, Department of Agriculture.